

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 22 of the clean copy of the specification in the Preliminary Amendment filed July 18, 2002 as follows:

For example, European patent EP 519 111 B1 discloses local networks with several subscribers, which are connected to one another to form a ring network by an optical data line. The optical data line transmits audio and/or video signals as well as control data. This local network has several subscribers, some of which (data sources) generate audio or video data and control data, and feed these into the ring network. Other subscribers of the network (data sinks) accept the data intended for them, process ~~processes~~ the data, and cause them to be reproduced.

Data sources can be such as input data into the data line of the network as uncompressed data or as compressed data. Accordingly, the data sinks which receive compressed data have a bit stream decoder, which decodes or decompresses the compressed data, and then these decompressed data are processed for reproduction. The DVD player and TV set described above can be subscribers of this local network. In this case, this device combination will have the disadvantages described previously.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 20 of the clean copy of the specification in the Preliminary Amendment filed July 18, 2002 as follows:

According to another aspect of the invention, a method for decompressing audio and video data in a local ring network includes, at a first data sink, (i) receiving compressed data transmitted along a transmission medium of a local ring network ~~at a first data sink~~, (ii) processing the compressed data to provide a decompressed audio signal, and (ii) transmitting the decompressed audio signal onto the local ring network. At a second data sink, (i) receiving the compressed data transmitted along the transmission medium of the local ring network, (ii) processing the compressed data to provide a decompressed video signal, and (ii) transmitting the decompressed videoaudio signal onto the local ring network.—

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 21 of the clean copy of the specification in the Preliminary Amendment filed July 18, 2002 as follows:

The subscriber ~~subscribers~~-2 is configured as a data source for compressed audio and video data. For example, the subscriber 2 may include a DVD player, which provides compressed audio and video data, and outputs the compressed audio and video data jointly, to its outgoing data line 1. The jointly transmitted compressed audio and video data are conducted via the optical data line 1 to the data sink 5. The data sink 5 includes a bit stream decoder 6, which decodes and decompresses the audio and video data, and provides decompressed audio data and video data ~~provided~~ to a separation stage 7. The separation stage 7 separates the jointly decoded audio and video data according to their type, and outputs these to the optical data line 1 for forwarding to the other data sinks 3, 4.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 8 of the clean copy of the specification in the Preliminary Amendment filed July 18, 2002 as follows:

The bit stream decoder 6 decodes the compressed audio data and the compressed decompressed—video data jointly and simultaneously in accordance with the particular compression format, and conducts these decoded, decompressed audio and video data to the separation stage 7.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 16 of the clean copy of the specification in the Preliminary Amendment filed July 18, 2002 as follows:

A ring topology ~~and~~—with a single optical data line 1, prevents undesirable interference from entering the data line. This is particularly desirable for applications in automobiles. The ring topology makes it possible to do without network nodes, and as a result utilizes the maximum transmission capacity of the optical data line and respectively of the ring network. This achieves a local network which is not only economical but which efficiently utilizes its maximum transmission capacity.